



PHIL ANDREWS

Mid-Term Report to District 3

Derwood, Gaithersburg, North Potomac, Rockville, Washington Grove

Valuing Education

Our diverse County's greatest strength is its commitment to outstanding educational opportunity. As a graduate of our County's public schools and the son of a retired County librarian, I am mindful of just how central excellent schools and libraries are to our County's success.

To help children master reading, the County Council has approved more than \$120 million since 1999 to enable the school system to reduce class size to 15 students per teacher in all first and second grade reading classes. The Council also accelerated funding for all-day kindergarten.

I'm pleased that each year all 10,000 public school second graders will experience great music at the remarkable new Music Center at Strathmore. I'm equally pleased that when Strathmore had cost overruns, the Council kept its word on a cost cap and found a way to finish the concert hall without turning to taxpayers.

Responding to an 80% decline in state aid for school construction, and in view of low interest rates, the Council issued more bonds to try to keep school capital projects on schedule. The Council also increased aid for Montgomery College.

I helped lead the effort that funded a new, much larger Rockville Regional Library, under construction as the centerpiece of Rockville's Town Center redevelopment. I proposed the funding that restored hours at Gaithersburg Library, successfully pushed for more staff at Quince Orchard Library, and closely monitor needs at Twinbrook.

Dear Neighbor,

I'm honored to serve as your district representative on the County Council. I work for you—not for development interests, lobbyists or political action committees. To respond to skyrocketing assessments, I led the battle that cut this year's property tax rate, and am pushing for more property tax relief for 2006. To ensure that restaurant workers and patrons have safe air to breathe, I led the fight for smoke-free restaurants. To save lives, I initiated the law that requires fire sprinklers in all new homes.

Public officials should head off foreseeable problems. In 2000, I introduced a bill to prohibit genetic discrimination in employment. It became the first local law in the U.S. protecting people from being denied employment or promotion simply because they have a genetic marker for a disease or condition.

As chair of the Public Safety Committee, I'm leading efforts to improve traffic and pedestrian safety, to stop any ambulance fee, to increase public safety staffing, and to help crime victims.

As the district councilmember for Derwood, Gaithersburg, North Potomac, Rockville and Washington Grove, I am working closely with the community to improve the Planning Board's proposed Shady Grove Sector Plan. Density must be reasonable, road and school capacity must be adequate, and treasured Blueberry Hill Park in Derwood and the Legacy Open Space meadow buffering historic Washington Grove must be preserved.

I value hearing from you, and my staff and I strive to provide outstanding constituent service. To share your views or get help with a County issue, call me at 240-777-7906 or email me at councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Phil Andrews

New and Continuing Initiatives

Cutting Property Tax Rates

Record-setting home assessments—such as the average increase of 69% for the most recent three-year cycle, combined with the 60% hike in the State property tax rate in 2003, are making it harder for many people to buy or to stay in a home.

Unless the County Council cuts the property tax rate, most homeowners' tax bills will double in seven years. I'm working hard to continue to deliver property tax relief.

I proposed the County property tax rate cut that took effect this year, and am advocating more property tax relief for 2006. If the Council doesn't act, some people will be priced out of their homes.

The County should reduce its reliance on the regressive property tax, and rely more on broader-based taxes such as the income tax and energy tax. Unlike the property tax, the energy tax applies to federal government facilities, and users can reduce their tax bill by saving energy.

Paying a Living Wage

I believe that hard-working men and women should make a decent wage and that government shouldn't perpetuate poverty. That's why I introduced and fought for three years to pass the Living Wage Law. The Council approved it in 2002, and it took effect July 1, 2003.

The Living Wage Law covers most County service contracts of \$50,000 or more with for-profit companies that have 10 or more employees. The living wage is currently \$10.75 per hour (about \$22,000 per year), and is tied to the Consumer Price Index. Employers may receive a credit for providing health insurance.

Reducing the Cost of Prescription Drugs

I co-sponsored the resolution championed by Councilmembers Tom Perez and Marilyn Praisner to establish a county-wide prescription card discount program. All County residents may participate.

Call 240-777-6534 if you have not received a prescription drug discount card or pick one up at a County library. Your savings should average about 20%.

Helping Cable Subscribers

I joined with Councilmember Marilyn Praisner to lead the battle that established the first customer service standards in the nation for cable modem subscribers. The proposed call answering, repair time, and refund standards were like those already in place for cable TV subscribers, but were fought by Comcast and the County Chamber of Commerce.

If you have a complaint about ANY cable service that your cable provider won't resolve to your satisfaction, call 240-773-2288 or email catv.complaint@montgomerycountymd.gov or fax a complaint to 240-777-3770.

Keeping Renters in Mind

The "affordability" periods for 70% of the 11,000 moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs) built since 1976 have expired.

I co-sponsored legislation with Councilmembers Tom Perez and George Leventhal to lengthen the affordability period for future rental and for-sale MPDUs. If you rent and are unsure about your rights, call my office at 240-777-7906 or Landlord-Tenant Affairs at 240-777-3600.

Fighting a Policy that Undermines Affordable Housing

I strongly opposed the new County policy to increase jobs faster than housing. By creating more demand for homes than supply, it will undermine efforts to improve housing affordability. This policy also will worsen rush-hour traffic on the Beltway and I-270, since many of the new workers will have to commute into the County because there won't be housing for them here.

Saving the Inspector General

Waste, fraud, and abuse exist at times in every large organization. As a former executive director of Common Cause of Maryland, I have long advocated for independent watchdogs. That's why I led the battle with Councilman Perez and former Councilman Ike Leggett, who wrote the law creating the Inspector General, that defeated an attempt to abolish the office.



Councilman Andrews was joined by then-Councilman Ike Leggett (at right) and leaders of the County PTA, Commission on Aging, Commission on People with Disabilities, and Action Committee for Transit when he introduced the Pedestrian Winter Safety Act. Andrews proposed the snow-clearing law, which the Council adopted 5-3, after then-Argyle Middle School principal Judy Docca (second from left) told him that her students often had to walk in dangerous Bel Pre Road due to uncleared, icy sidewalks. In 2004, Andrews worked with Ms. Wheelchair America—Juliette Rizzo of Rockville, the Disabilities Commission, and the County PTA to defeat a bill to weaken the law.

The Story Behind Montgomery County's Smoke-free Restaurant Law

After eight years of hard work by many people, the County Council approved a smoke-free restaurant bill on July 1, 2003 by a veto-proof margin. Then, the County beat back a court challenge to delay the October 9, 2003 effective date. Finally, the focus shifted to the cities of Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Takoma Park, where the County's smoking ban did not apply.

After Takoma Park and Rockville quickly approved the County's Smoke-free Restaurant Law, Gaithersburg became the battleground. There, the diligent work of public health advocates, led by Doug Tipperman of the Montgomery County Community Partnership, Maxine Norcross of Students Oppose Smoking, and Gaithersburg activists John and Toni Hudson, helped overcome a vigorous campaign by some restaurants and individuals to stop a smoke-free law.

On March 1, 2004, by a 3–2 vote, the Gaithersburg City Council approved a

The purpose of smoke-free restaurant laws is to protect workers and patrons from harmful secondhand smoke. The County Council vote put public health first—over the opposition of Big Tobacco, the Restaurant Association of Maryland, and the County Chamber of Commerce.

smoke-free law. The City allowed restaurants with separate, ventilated rooms to allow smoking until March 22, 2005.

Scientific evidence of the harm of secondhand smoke is well-documented by the U.S. Surgeon General. Secondhand smoke impairs heart function in healthy adults within thirty minutes, can trigger life-threatening asthma attacks, and significantly increases the risk of lung cancer with long-term exposure.

Safe air in restaurants and bars is as vital as safe food. We don't allow restaurants or bars to serve unsafe food. Why would we allow them to have unsafe air?

Although the County Council's final vote on the smoke-free bill was 8–1, the outcome was much in doubt. An amendment to delay the ban for two years came within two votes of passing. Councilmen George Leventhal and Tom Perez, bill co-sponsors, were instrumental in its defeat.

If the amendment had passed, the air in many local restaurants (County law

Despite the dire predictions of some opponents, County restaurant industry revenues are up more than 7% since the smoking ban, and dozens of new restaurants have opened.

effectively prohibits stand-alone bars) would still be unsafe, regardless of the presence of ventilation systems, which reduce odor and visible smoke, but can't clear toxins in the smoke fast enough to make the air safe. The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers found that "acceptable indoor air quality cannot be achieved in the presence of secondhand smoke," even with state-of-the-art ventilation systems.

Smoke-free restaurants are essential for workers, for patrons who suffer from asthma or other breathing disabilities, and for people with heart conditions.

Regrettably, a few opponents have engaged in scare tactics. When then-Council President Ike Leggett introduced a smoke-free restaurant bill in 1999 (which the Council passed 5–4, but County Executive Doug Duncan vetoed), the National Smokers Alliance, funded by Big Tobacco, ran ads claiming it would devastate Silver Spring's redevelopment.

In 2005, the Restaurant Association of Maryland urged members to write to state lawmakers that a statewide smoking ban "would dramatically reduce State sales tax receipts," while knowing restaurant sales tax receipts were up more than 7% in Montgomery County since the ban.

Dozens of U.S. cities, seven states, and several countries, including Ireland and Italy, have enacted smoke-free workplace laws that include all restaurants and bars.

Our County's indoor air is the safest in the region because the Smoke-free Restaurant Law protects workers and patrons from dangerous secondhand smoke.



Councilman Andrews presented an award to Maxine Norcross, a leader of Students Oppose Smoking. The group's superb work helped achieve a countywide smoking ban that protects the health of students who work in restaurants. Andrews received the American Lung Association of Maryland's Distinguished Public Service Award for 2004 for championing Montgomery County's Smoke-free Restaurant Law, the region's first.

Transportation

Providing Real Traffic Relief

We must move forward with cost-effective transportation projects like those on the map to the right. For example, adding thru- and right-turn lanes on Great Seneca Hwy at Muddy Branch unclogged traffic.

To address east-west congestion, I support widening Muncaster Mill Rd., and MD 28/MD 198 from Georgia Ave. to Colesville Rd. to two lanes each way.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, 50–60% of congestion results mainly from disabled vehicles and collisions. Pre-positioned tow trucks will help clear incidents faster, restore traffic flow, and reduce secondary crashes.

Fiscally and environmentally sound land-use and transportation policy avoids sprawl-inducing highways, balances jobs and housing to help shorten commutes, and fosters transit use. I strongly support the Corridor Cities Transitway, which would connect Clarksburg, Germantown, Gaithersburg, Decoverly and King Farm to the Shady Grove Metro, and the Purple Line to connect Metro's Red line spokes. In 2000, I spearheaded the 44% cut in Ride-On bus pass fares to boost use.

I strongly opposed this Council's 5–4 vote to end a major traffic test for development. Taxpayers will now have to pay for roads that developers used to pay for.

Assessing the Proposed ICC

The claim was bold and appealing: the ICC would “relieve gridlock for the entire region” (Sept. 2002 “End Gridlock Team” mailing). But it was also unfounded, as the Nov. 2004 State Highway Administration (SHA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the ICC makes clear (and as the table below illustrates).

The State Highway Administration concluded the ICC wouldn't reduce traffic on I-270 or I-95 (p. IV-50, DEIS).

SHA also concluded that commutes from Shady Grove to Gaithersburg or to Rockville would take longer if the ICC is built than if it is not (pages 320–321, DEIS).

In Jan. 2005, the Coalition for Smarter Growth and five other groups released a report, *The Intercountry Connector: Performance and Alternatives*. It found “the ICC produces the least improvement to travel conditions in the region when compared with several reasonable alternatives.”

In Feb. 2005, the Md. Dept. of Legislative Services found the Governor's plan to finance 92% of the ICC with bonds would add over \$500 million to the ICC's 2006 \$2.4 billion cost, and use 20–24% of Md.'s federal highway funds for 15 years.

- 1** Midcounty Hwy., Christopher Ave., Lost Knife Rd. at Mont. Village Ave. Turn lanes added to improve traffic flow through intersections
Status: Completed December 2004
- 2** MD 355 (Frederick Rd.) at Montgomery Village Ave. (MD 124) Intersection rebuilt to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety
Status: Completed March 2003
- 3** Clopper Rd. (MD 117) and Quince Orchard Rd. (MD 124) intersection Rebuild to improve traffic flow
Status: Will be completed in 2005
- 4** W. Diamond Ave. (MD 117) at I-270 in Gaithersburg Widened to add capacity/access to Olde Towne; sidewalks constructed
Status: Completed October 2004
- 5** Quince Orchard Rd. from Darnestown Rd. to south of Horse Center Rd. Multiple spot safety improvements, including a sidewalk/bikepath
Status: Construction begins in 2005
- 6** Darnestown Rd. (MD 28) from Riffle Ford Rd. to Great Seneca Highway Widened to increase capacity; bike lanes and sidewalks added; noise walls installed in certain sections
Status: Completed November 2004, except for one noise wall
- 7** Great Seneca Highway at Muddy Branch Rd. and Sam Eig Highway Add through lane and turning lanes to increase capacity at intersections
Status: Finish March 2005
- 8** Travilah Rd. from Darnestown Rd. to Dufief Mill Rd. Completely re-engineer road for safety; add sidewalk/bikepath
Status: In final design and property acquisition; construction scheduled to begin Dec. 2005, finish mid-2007
- 9** MD 355 (Frederick Rd.) at Shady Grove Rd. Intersection rebuilt to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety
Status: Completed April 2003
- 10** Shady Grove Road from Briardale Road to Muncaster Mill Road Widened to 3 lanes each way throughout; new sidewalk; (\$2.5 million approved for noise walls)
Status: Completed March 2004 except the noise walls, which are funded for construction in 2005–06

State Finds the ICC Would Worsen Beltway Traffic in Montgomery County

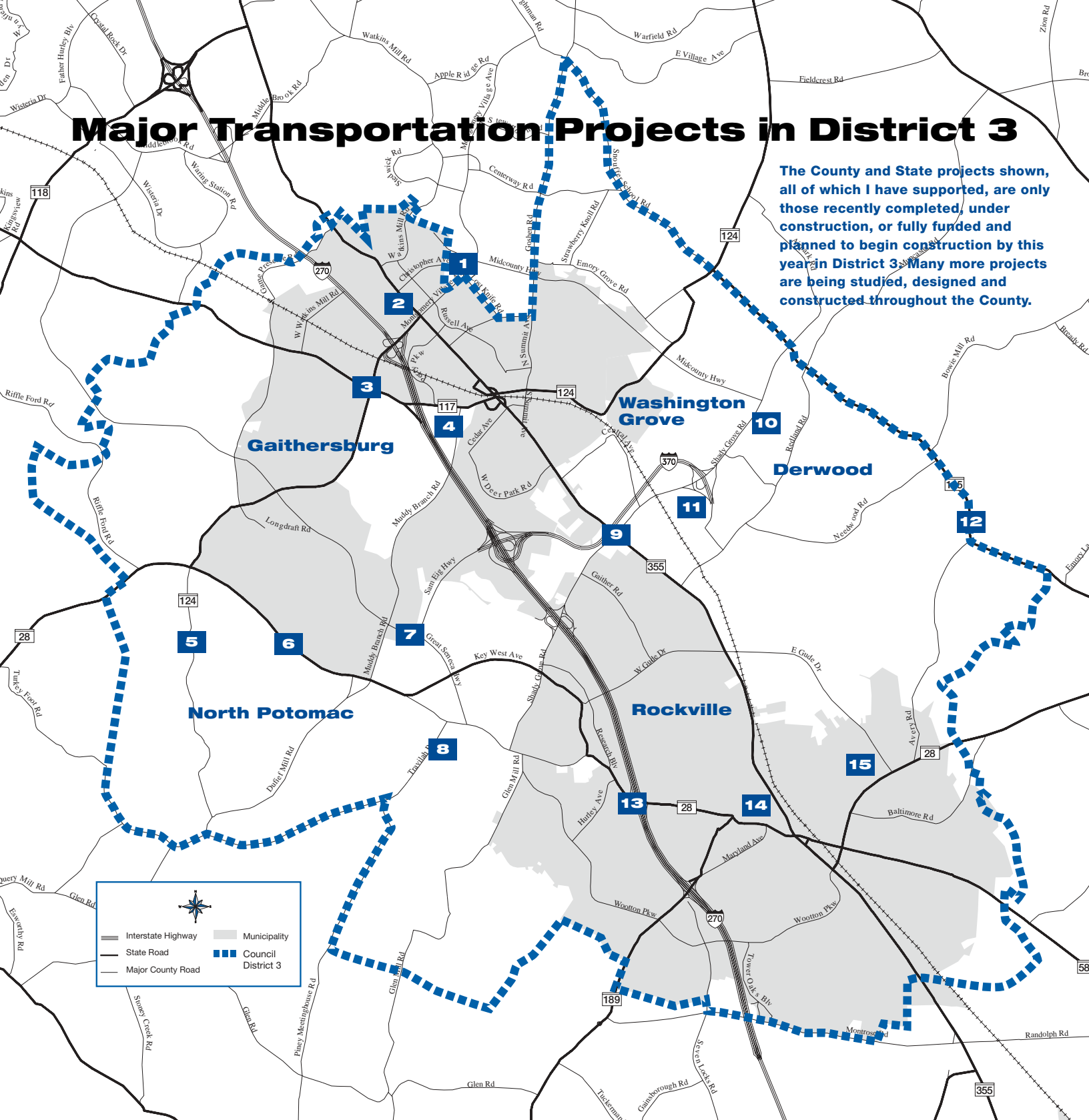
		Beltway Daily Traffic: Year 2030 Projections		
Beltway Intersection	Current Beltway Traffic Year 2000	No ICC	ICC Corridor 1*	ICC Corridor 2*
Colesville Rd. (US-29)	249,000 vehicles	257,000 vehicles	260,000 vehicles	264,000 vehicles
Georgia Ave. (MD-97)	249,000 vehicles	257,000 vehicles	260,000 vehicles	264,000 vehicles
Connecticut Ave. (MD-185)	244,000 vehicles	251,000 vehicles	250,000 vehicles	255,000 vehicles
I-270	130,000 vehicles	154,000 vehicles	155,000 vehicles	155,000 vehicles

Source: Maryland State Highway Administration & Federal Highway Administration 2004 ICC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), section IV, pages 316–317. All numbers are average weekday projections.

*Corridor 1 is Master Plan Alignment, Corridor 2 is Northern Alignment. Visit www.iccstudy.org to read the DEIS.

Major Transportation Projects in District 3

The County and State projects shown, all of which I have supported, are only those recently completed, under construction, or fully funded and planned to begin construction by this year in District 3. Many more projects are being studied, designed and constructed throughout the County.



11 New Parking Garage at Shady Grove Metro
1,600 parking spaces added
Status: Completed May 2003

12 Muncaster Mill Rd. (MD 115) from Redland Rd. to Norbeck Rd.
Safety improvements, including reducing curves and hill grades
Status: Finish Summer 2005

13 Rockville Trail Bridge along MD 28 (W. Montgomery Ave.) over I-270
Improve hiker/biker safety
Status: Start Fiscal Year 2005

14 Maryland Ave
Extend from Middle Lane to Beall Avenue in Rockville Town Center
Status: Under construction (joint project with Rockville City)

15 Rockville Millennium Trail Phase 2 along Norbeck Rd. (MD 28) east of Veirs Mill Rd (MD 586)
Improve hiker/biker safety
Status: Under construction

Public Safety

Fighting an Ambulance Fee

I am opposed to County Executive Doug Duncan's proposal for a \$350 ambulance fee. Ambulance transport is an essential public service that we already pay for through our County taxes.

Charging for ambulance service would inevitably result in some residents putting themselves at risk by waiting to call for an ambulance, or trying to drive themselves to a hospital and putting others at risk as well. In medical emergencies, a delay of a few minutes can make the difference between life or death.



Councilman Andrews, chair of the Public Safety Committee, joins Councilman Howard Denis and rescue squad leaders to oppose an ambulance fee. Email your view NOW to all County Council members: county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Improving Traffic Safety and Pedestrian Safety

The greatest threat most of us face each day is being hurt or killed in a collision.

I've advocated for red-light cameras to deter red-light running and reduce the number of deadly side-impact collisions, straightening portions of Muncaster Mill Road, more speed enforcement, dedicated left-turn lanes, and sidewalks/bikepaths.

I proposed the lower nighttime speed limit in place on Shady Grove Road near the quarry, as well as the funding for the sidewalk added to Shady Grove Road between I-370 and Muncaster Mill Road.

I'm pleased that safety improvements will soon be underway on Quince Orchard Road near the high school, and on Travilah Road in North Potomac.

Providing Protection from Fires in all New Homes

Nearly 80% of fire-related deaths occur in residences. Fire sprinklers could prevent almost all of them. That's why I introduced and fought for the law that requires sprinkler systems in all new homes. Each year, more than 1,000 new detached homes now will have fire sprinklers.

Montgomery County is the largest jurisdiction in the United States to require this proven, cost-effective, and life-saving technology in all new homes.

Bolstering Police Services and Adding Fire Apparatus

The County must effectively respond to significant increases in gang activity, cybercrime, and identity theft. As chair of the Public Safety Committee, I led the effort that added a police recruit class to fill vacancies, and have strongly supported funding for more fire apparatus.

I asked Police Chief Thomas Manger to review whether the authorized force of 1,111 sworn and 356 full-time civilian personnel is sufficient. The Chief proposes 250 more personnel over five years.



Councilman Andrews with two of Montgomery's finest. No question who's got the best nose for crime here. Chief Thomas Manger has proposed several additional canine units as part of a five-year plan to strengthen police services.



Councilman Phil Andrews

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Receive a one-time credit
of up to 50% of your
County property tax bill by
installing a County-approved
fire sprinkler system in your
home. Call 240-777-2457.